

*(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Tim Ryan (D-Niles) released the following statement today regarding President Bush's expected announcement that he intends to escalate the war in Iraq by adding as many as 20,000 troops to overall force levels:*

For the sake of our troops, our national security, and our international reputation, it is vital that President Bush begin working on a plan to end our occupation of Iraq, not escalate it.

Sending more of our service men and women to police Iraq's bloody civil war will do little to overcome the many problems President Bush's failed policy has created. As our Generals in Iraq have stated repeatedly, increasing the number of our troops fighting in Iraq will increase Iraqis' dependency on U.S. forces, strain a U.S. military that's already stretched thin, and contribute little to our ability to pacify that country.

The American people, our military leaders, Democratic Members of Congress, and even a growing number of Republican Members have reached the commonsense conclusion that the only way to win the occupation of Iraq is to end it.

The era of the Rubberstamp Republican Congress is over, and President Bush should be on notice that a Democratic Congress will not provide a blank check for his Administration to continue its misguided and dangerous policies.